

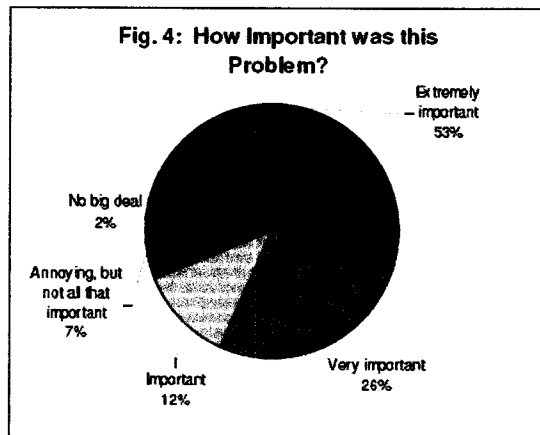
Summary of 2005 Montana Legal Needs Study

Methodology

- Results are based on 843 in-depth surveys conducted of low-income Montanans throughout the state. Low-income is defined as earning less than 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.

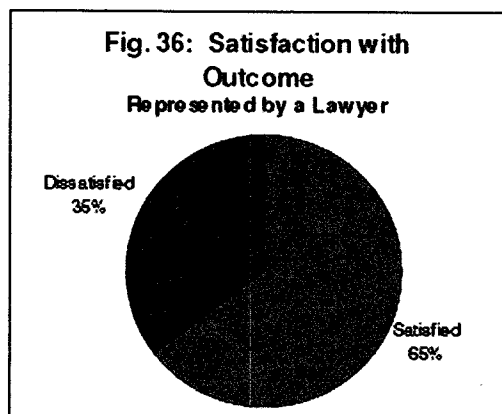
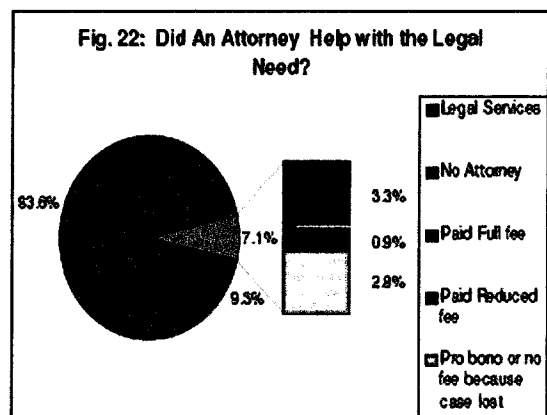
Results

- Each low-income household reported an average of 3.47 legal problems per year. There are a total of 207,051 unmet legal needs each year in Montana's low-income community.
- The most common legal issues reported were Housing (38.2% of households), Family (35.2% of households), Consumer (29.7% of households), and Employment (28.9% of households).



- 90% of legal problems were rated as important, very important, or extremely important by the respondents.

- 84% of the reported legal issues did not receive any attention by a lawyer.



- 68% of respondents who had experienced legal problems were dissatisfied with the legal system. This percentage dropped to 35% for respondents who got some assistance from a lawyer.